



# ***Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks***

The following is a general summarization of the FWP Commission's Final Adoptions for the 2008 and 2009 hunting seasons made at the February 20, 2008 Commission meeting.

Except for the specific adjustments listed below, season structure components from the previous biennium were adopted for 2008 and 2009. For further clarification you may call 444-2612. The full regulations will ultimately be posted on the FWP website at [www.fwp.mt.gov](http://www.fwp.mt.gov) under "Hunting" and "Regulations" as they become available for final printing and distribution. Efforts to those ends are ongoing.

## **Statewide**

### **Hunting Season Dates**

Dates set using traditional process. 2008 season dates for rifle deer/elk are October 26 – November 30.

### **Quotas**

Adjust annual license and permit quota setting for deer, elk, antelope, moose, sheep, goat and bear to biennial. Ranges adopted biennially by Commission with annual FWP adjustments only within adopted range.

## **Wolf**

### **Statewide**

Only structure adopted--quota numbers addressed with separate future process. Modifications from Tentatives include clarification on scent and adjusting the start date to the opening of the general deer and elk season except for backcountry hunting districts open to early rifle season (September 15). Trapping would be excluded for the first two years with hunters allowed to harvest the 25% trapping quota during the trapping season (December 1 - December 31) in the absence of trapping. During annual quota setting, specific areas (i.e., sub-areas) may be defined and assigned harvest sub-quotas.

**While a season structure has been adopted, license sales and a hunting season would not occur until wolves are successfully delisted and any pending litigation is resolved.**

### **Game Damage**

No quota changes from 2007. Game damage quotas apply to management seasons and are biennial.

### **Upland Game Bird**

### Statewide

Youth pheasant weekend overlaps youth waterfowl weekend. Youth pheasant hunting would be during legal upland bird shooting times on these two days. Youth defined to be 12 - 15 and would need to be accompanied by a non-hunting adult 18 years of age or older.

Falconry limits are NOT in addition to hunting bag and possession limits.

### Region 1 (Turkey)

**Lincoln County** –Over-the-counter either sex licenses for Fall Season and 400 Gobbler permits for Spring.

**West Sanders County** –Over-the-counter either sex licenses for Fall Season and 400 Gobbler permits for Spring.

**East Sanders County** – No Fall Season and 10 Gobbler permits for Spring.

### Region 2 (Turkey)

**Mineral County** – Fall Season with permits and increase permits as follows:

282-20: 25 Male Turkey Permits for Spring Season (Shotgun/Archery Only)

282-50: 25 Either-sex Turkey Permits for Fall Season (Shotgun/Archery Only)

**Missoula County** - Fall Season with permits and increase permits as follows:

283-20: 50 Male Turkey Permits for Spring Season (Shotgun/Archery Only)

283-50: 150 Either-sex Turkey Permits for Fall Season (Shotgun/Archery Only)

**Ravalli County** – Remove Ravalli County from General License Area in regulations; maintain permit structure for Fall.

### Region 3 (Turkey)

**HD 365** – Implement new HD that is Lewis and Clark and Broadwater Counties (Lower Missouri Unit); **Spring permits** would be 20 (365-20) and 2 (365-21); **Fall permits** would be 25 (365-50) and 2 (365-51).

**HD 375** - Implement new HD that is Gallatin County and Madison County east of Madison River (Gallatin County Unit); **Spring permits** would be 15 (375-20) and 2 (375-21); **Fall permits** would be 10 (375-50) and 2 (375-51).

**HD 385** – No change.

**HD 395** – Implement new HD that is Beaverhead, Silver Bow, Jefferson Counties and Madison County west of Madison River (Upper Missouri Unit); **Spring permits** would be **35** (395-20) and **5** (395-21); **Fall permits** would be 20 (395-50) and 2 (395-51).

### Black Bear

No changes.

## **Moose**

### **Region 2**

**HD 210** – Convert antlerless moose licenses to Either Sex.

**HD 211** - Eliminate antlerless moose licenses.

**HD 214** – Convert antlerless moose licenses to Antlered Bull.

**HD 215** - Convert antlerless moose licenses to Either Sex.

### **Region 3**

**HD 302** – Reduce antlerless licenses from 5 to 1 and antlered bull licenses from 5 to 4.

**HD 334** – Adjust season and license structure to the following:

Sep 15 – Nov 30 5 Either Sex (334-00)

Nov 15 – Dec 15 6 Antlerless (334-11)

**HD 390** - Implement new hunting district 390 (West Big Belt Mountains). Two Antlered Bull licenses (390-20) recommended.

### **Regions 4 and 6**

**HD 600** - Implement new hunting district 600 (Hi Line). Two Either Sex licenses (600-20) recommended.

## **Sheep**

### **Statewide**

Implement archery only season for limited entry sheep licenses to run for 10 days prior to the start of a district's general sheep season opener. This would not include HD 301 or the unlimited entry districts.

### **Region 1**

**HD 121** – Implement 5 adult ewe licenses (121-30).

### **Region 3**

**HD 301** – Re-open and implement 5 any ram licenses

**HD 380** – Close to hunting of all bighorn sheep

### **Region 5**

**HDs 500, 501 and 502** – Adjust boundaries of HDs 500 and 501 and create new HD 502. Season would be unlimited license sale with harvest quota of 2 legal rams.

**HD 503** – Adjust license structure from (503-10) 3 Legal Ram licenses to (503-00) 3 Either Sex licenses.

### **Region 6**

**HDs 620 and 680** – Expand HD 680 Either Sex licenses to be valid in HD 620 also.

**HD 622** - Implement 5 adult ewe licenses valid in Mickey and Brandon Buttes area (portion of HD west of the Renolds Hill Road).

## **Goat**

### **Region 2**

**HD 212** – Close district to all goat hunting.

### Region 3

**HD 321** – Close district to all goat hunting.

**HD 322** – Close district to all goat hunting.

### Deer

#### Region 1

**HD 170** - Adjust boundary of deer/elk HD 170 and increase 170-10 OTC antlerless white-tailed deer license limit per hunter from 1 to 5.

Implement Libby Archery Only Hunting Area.

Eliminate Antlerless Mule Deer Permits 100-60, 103-60, 104-60, 121-60, 122-60, 123-60.

Replace with the following Antlerless Mule Deer B Licenses:

100-01        50 licenses

103-01        50 licenses

104-01        50 licenses

121-01        50 licenses

122-01        50 licenses

123-01        25 licenses.

Eliminate Old Steel and Stillwater hunting closures.

Licensed hunters with “Permit to Hunt From a Vehicle” (PTHFVP) added to youth 5-week either sex white-tailed deer opportunity where present.

#### Region 2

**HDs 210, 212, 213, 214 and 215** – Add antlerless mule deer B licenses as follows.

210-00        50 licenses

212-00        100 licenses

213-00        25 licenses

214-00        25 licenses

215-00        50 licenses

**HD 212** - Expand antlerless mule deer B licenses (212-00) to all of HD 212 and increase to 100.

**HD 212, 213 and 214** - Implement unlimited mule deer buck permits. HDs 213 and 214 would be grouped together.

**HDs 202, 210, 212, 213 and 216** - Eliminate antlerless white-tailed B licenses 202-02, 210-00, 212-01, 213-00, 216-00.

**HDs 291, 292, 293 and 298** - Create new deer/elk HD 298 comprised of portions of HD's 291, 292 and 293. HD 290 and East Ovando Archery-only area maintained. Propose to establish the following deer hunting season structure in HD 298:

Sep 6 – Oct 19        -- Either-sex White-tailed Deer. Archery Only Season.

Oct 26 – Nov 2        -- Either-sex White-tailed Deer.

Oct 26 – Nov 30        -- Either-sex White-tailed Deer. Only Youth ages 12-15.

Nov 3– Nov 30        -- Antlered Buck White-tailed Deer.

**Special Permit. Drawing only. Apply by June 1.**

**002-10: Single Region B license for White-tailed deer valid in HD 298.**

**298-40: Unlim. Permits. Permit must be used with a valid Deer A License.**

**Holders may not hunt Antlered Buck Mule Deer in any other HD.**

- Sep 6 – Oct 19 -- Antlered Buck Mule Deer. Archery Only Season.
- Oct 26 – Nov 30 -- Antlered Buck Mule Deer

### Region 3

**HD 309** - Expand HD boundary.

**HDs 309, 311, 312 and 393** - Clarify/adjust HD boundaries.

**HD 339** - Adjust HD boundary.

**HD 388** - Adjust HD boundary and increase 388-10 OTC antlerless mule deer B license limit per hunter from 1 to 7.

### Region 4

**HDs 413 and 445** – implement 500 antlerless white-tailed B licenses valid in HDs 413 and 445 (445-01).

**HDs 421** - Implement general ES mule deer season for all of archery and rifle seasons in all of HDs 421.

**HD 423** – Eliminate “off of National Forest” limitation relative to ES mule deer harvest.

### Region 5

**HDs 500, 570 and 580** - Implement general ES mule deer season for all of archery and rifle seasons in all of HDs 500, 570 and 580.

**HD 530** - Implement general deer license valid for antlerless mule deer for all of archery and rifle seasons in all of HD 530.

### Region 6

**HDs 600, 610 and 690** - Incorporate parts of deer/elk HD 610 into HDs 600 and 690. 550 antlerless mule deer B licenses valid in new HD 600 and 550 antlerless mule deer B licenses valid in new HD 690. HD 610 will be eliminated.

**HDs 640, 641 and 670** - Incorporate parts of deer/elk HD 640 into HDs 641 and 670. Season structures in adjusted HDs 640, 641 and 670 will remain as they currently are.

**HD 641** – Implement 100 antlerless mule deer B licenses

**LPT 698-00 nonresident and 699-00 resident** antlerless white-tailed deer B licenses to be combined into one 699-00 with 5000 licenses available.

## Elk

### Statewide

#### 1. ELK ARCHERY PERMITS: MISSOURI RIVER BREAKS

**2008:** limited ES permits; any choice; 100% of 3-year average; limited antlerless permits (range 50 – 300) 2<sup>nd</sup> choice (after 1<sup>st</sup> choice ES in same district)

HD 410/417: 2400

HD 620/621/622: 1670

HD 700/701: 1090

**2009:** limited ES permits; any choice; 75% of 3-year average; limited antlerless permits (range 50 – 300) 2<sup>nd</sup> choice (after 1<sup>st</sup> choice ES in same district)

HD 410/417: 1560

HD 620/621/622: 1080

HD 700/701: 720

## 2. ELK ARCHERY PERMITS: OUTSIDE BREAKS

**2008:** 1<sup>st</sup> choice unlimited ES permits; general license antlerless; districts “bundled” into groups

HDs 401/403/441/450

HDs 411/412/426/511/530

HDs 420/447/455

HDs 500/570

HDs 502/portion 510 west of HWY 310/portion 520 east of West Fk of Rock Ck/575

HD portion 580 south of Sweetgrass Ck

HD 590

HD 702/704/705

**2009:** limited ES permits; any choice; 100% of 2008 application; general license antlerless; districts “bundled” into groups

### Region 2

Offer unlimited A9/B12 licenses over-the-counter for archery only during the archery only season in HDs 201, 203, 260, 283, 290 and 292 (greater Missoula area).

The archery A9/B12 283-80 would be eliminated.

**HD 202** - Eliminate antlerless permits 202-02.

**HDs 204, 261 and 270** - Replace A7 licenses with antlerless permits in HDs 204, 261 and 270. General license antlerless harvest in HDs 204, 261 and the north half of HD 270 would close when a quota of 200 cow elk from HD 270 is checked at Darby Check Station. General license antlerless harvest in the south half of HD 270 would close when a quota of 300 cow elk from HD 270 is checked at Darby Check Station. Proposed antlerless permits are:

HD 204-00 5 permits

HD 261-00 25 permits

HD 261-01 valid only north of Birch Creek 50 permits

HD 270-00 75 permits

HD 270-01 125 permits

**HDs 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 216, 282, 283, 284, 285 and 290** - Replace antlered bull regulation with brow-tined bull. Either sex would be stated as brow-tined bull or antlerless.

**HDs 210, 212, 213, 215, 216, 281, 283, 285, 291, 292 and 293** - Implement 7 day general license brow-tined bull or antlerless elk harvest from third Monday to fourth Sunday of rifle season and eliminate A9/B12 in HD 213 and combine 212-00 and 212-01 into 212-00 valid for all of HD 212. Propose antlerless permits are:

210-00 200 permits

212-00 300 permits

213-00 150 permits

215-00 150 permits, 215-01 50 permits

216-00 25 permits, 216-01 100 permits

281-00 100 permits

285-20 50 permits, 285-21 200 permits

283-00 250 permits  
291-00 100 permits  
292-00 150 permits  
293-0 50 permits

**HDs 240 and 250** - Eliminate all A7 licenses in HDs 240 and 250 and adjust HD 240 and 250 general season to season-long brow-tined bull with 200 antlerless elk permits in HD 240 and 50 antlerless elk permits in HD 250 (valid only in northeast portion of district).

**HD 280** - Start brow-tined bull or antlerless season in backcountry HD 280 September 29 instead of start of general season.

**HD 282** - Replace A7 licenses with 75 antlerless elk permits.

**HD 283** - Adjust boundary of 283-02 for antlerless permits in Rattlesnake Wilderness Area.

**HDs 291, 292, 293 and 298** - Create new elk/deer HD 298 comprised of portions of HDs 291, 292 and 293. HD 290 and East Ovando Archery-only area maintained. General archery season in HD 290 adjusted to brow-tined bull or antlerless while the general rifle season remains antlerless only. General archery and rifle season in HD 298 would be brow-tined bull or antlerless elk with 100 total A9/B12 licenses offered via the drawing.

Licensed hunters with "Permit to Hunt From a Vehicle" added to general elk license youth opportunities where present.

### Region 3

**HD 300** - Implement 5 week ES general season and 200 total A9/B12 licenses through drawing.

**HD 301** - Brow-tined bull/antlerless for first two weeks (Oct 26 – Nov 9), brow-tined bull only for remainder of season.

**HD 302** – Replace current brow-tined bull season and antlerless permits with a 5-week brow-tined bull or antlerless season

**HD 310** - Implement unlimited brow-tined bull permits for archery and rifle seasons. These would be offered 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> choice.

**HD 312** - Implement 100 A9/B12 licenses valid on private lands through drawing.

**HD 313** – Add a general license brow-tined bull or antlerless opportunity during the general rifle season for youth ages 12–15.

**HD 314** - Implement 1000 total A9/B12 licenses through drawing and replace ES season with brow-tined bull or antlerless season.

**HDs 315 and 393** - Implement unlimited A9/B12 licenses and commit to monitoring nonresident participation relative to 10% cap intent and consistency. In HD 314 replace either sex season with brow-tined bull or antlerless.

**HD 317** - Replace ES season with brow-tined bull or antlerless season.

**HDs 319 and 341** - Reduce brow-tined bull or antlerless general season to 2 weeks from third Monday to fifth Sunday of general rifle season and add brow-tined bull or antlerless permits in 319-10 (300 permits) and 341-10 (175 permits).

**HDs 320 and 333** - Implement 5 week brow-tined bull or antlerless general season and 300 total A9/B12 licenses through drawing.

**HD 321** - Implement 5 week ES general season **and** eliminate ES permits 321-00.

**HDs 322-327 and 330** - Implement 5 week brow-tined bull or antlerless general season and 1000 total A9/B12 licenses through drawing.

**HD 328** – Implement 5 week ES general season for south half of district. In

north half maintain antlered bull general season and add 100 A9/B12 licenses valid on private land and 50 either sex permits.

**HD 329** - Reduce either sex general season to 2 weeks from third Monday to fifth Sunday of general rifle season and add 350 ES permits.

**HD 331** - Reduce either sex general season to 2 weeks from third Monday to fifth Sunday of general rifle season and add 400 ES permits.

**HDs 360 and 362** – Eliminate late hunts and remove private land designation of A9/B12 licenses. Increase A9/B12 licenses from 200 to 400. Implement Airport Weapons Restriction Area in R1E T6S sections 29, 30, 31 and 32 and R1W T6S section 36. The Weapons Restriction area, eliminating late season use of the A9/B12 licenses, eliminating the A9/B12 private land designation, increasing the A9/B12 (398-80) from 200 to 400 and elimination of late hunts would take place in 2008.

A Madison Special Management Area was adopted for implementation in 2009\*. 200 antlerless permits (398-10) adopted for use with general license or A9/B12 (398-80) in Madison Special Management Area for five 7-day intervals (40 permits per period). Hunt Orientation required for permit validation. Access conditions addressed at Hunt Orientation.

\* A collaboratively developed and effective alternative to the Madison Special Management Area could potentially be a stand-alone Tentative proposal in December 2008.

**HD 390** – Add 400 A9/B12 licenses valid throughout the district through the drawing.

Licensed hunters with “Permit to Hunt From a Vehicle” added to general elk license youth opportunities.

#### Region 4

**HD 410** - Reduce antlerless elk permits (410-00) from 400 to 200 and reduce either sex elk rifle permits (410-20) from 75 to 55 and eliminate A9/B12 licenses (410-80) and eliminate general license antlerless elk hunting for youth.

**HDs 413, 418, 432 and 454** – Implement 5 week ES general season with A9/B12 licenses through drawing and eliminate antlerless licenses.

**HDs 418 and 448** – Adjust boundary between HD 418 and 448 (for elk and deer).

**HD 417** - Increase antlerless elk permits (417-00) from 350 to 400 and issue 300 A9/B12 antlerless elk licenses (417-80) through drawing. A9/B12 licenses valid south of the DY Trail and Knox Ridge Rd and exclude the CMR refuge.

**HD 422** – Implement 350 total A9/B12 licenses (422-80) through drawing and valid throughout HD.

**HD 425** – Eliminate either sex permits (425-20) and implement additional week of antlerless permits. Adjust antlerless permit levels as follows:

425-00: 25 permits

425-01: 30 permits

425-02: 35 permits

425-03: 35 permits

**HD 442** - Implement 400 total A9/B12 licenses (442-80) through drawing and valid throughout HD.

**HD 448** – Implement full 5-week antlered bull season (remove 9-day ES) and



increase antlerless permits (448-00) from 100 to 200.  
**HDs 449 and 452** – Implement 5 week ES general season.  
**HD 450** – Remove A9/B12 licenses.  
**Region 4 Multi-District A9/B12** - Limit total A9/B12 licenses to 2200 through drawing. Valid in all R4 districts except 401, 410, 411, 412, 417, 420, 422, 441, 442, 448, 450, and 455.  
**HDs 401, 403, 412, 417, 426, 441, 447** – Youth (12 – 15) General License Antlerless Elk opportunity; Licensed hunters with “Permit to Hunt From a Vehicle” added.

#### Region 5

**HD 520** – Convert antlered bull permits (520-40) to either sex (520-21).  
**HD 540** - Implement 5 week ES general season and eliminate antlerless permits and implement 50 total A9/B12 licenses through drawing only valid on Private and DNRC lands and not valid on FWP Wildlife Management Areas.  
**HD 560** - Implement 50 total A9/B12 licenses through drawing valid west of the Main Boulder River outside Natl Forest Boundary.  
**HD 580** – Increase existing total A9/B12 licenses through drawing from 150 to 300.  
**HD 590-80** – Implement 65 total A9/B12 licenses through drawing valid in HD 590 north of Yellowstone River and portion of HD 701 north of Yellowstone River, south of HWY 12 and west of Sumatra-Myers Road.  
**HD 590-81** – Implement 35 total A9/B12 licenses through drawing valid in HD 590 south of Yellowstone River.

Hunters with “Permit to Hunt From a Vehicle” added to general elk license youth opportunities.

#### Region 6

**HD 620** – Allow antlerless permits in HDs 621 and 622 to be valid in HD 620 and eliminate antlerless permits 620-00.  
**HD 621** – Allow antlerless elk rifle permits in HD 621 to be valid for all of HD 621 in one LPT 621-01 (550 permits)  
**HD 622** – Implement 300 total A9/B12 licenses through drawing valid for HDs 622 and 620 during archery and rifle season.  
**HDs 620, 621 and 622** - Allow youth antlerless elk rifle permits (621-00) to be valid for all of HDs 620, 621 and 622 during the 3-day early youth season, and throughout the following general season.  
**HDs 630, 631 and 632** - Allow youth antlerless elk rifle permits (631-01) to be valid for all of HDs 630, 631 and 632 during the 3-day early youth season, and throughout the following general season  
**HDs 680 and 690** - Eliminate 680-80 antlerless A9/B12 licenses (50) and increase the **690-80 antlerless A9/B12 licenses from 100 to 200, also valid in HD 680.** Also make **690-00 Youth antlerless permits (25) valid in HD 680 and add 50 antlerless elk permits in HD 690 for the General Rifle Season (690-01), also valid in HD 680.**

#### Antelope

##### Statewide

Replace unlimited 900 archery antelope licenses to 5600 licenses available through the drawing (Regions 3 – 7) on first, second or third choice. Increase number of 900-30

doe/fawn antelope license that may be purchased by a successful applicant from one to two.

Adjust total number of antelope licenses an individual may hold to three, only one of which may be an either sex license. This would allow an individual to potentially purchase three surplus antelope licenses.

### Region 2

**HD 291** - Add new hunting district 291 with 3 either sex licenses (291-00) and 5 doe/fawn licenses (291-10) with same boundary as Deer/Elk HD 291.

### Region 3

**HD 310** - Increase 310-00 Either-sex licenses from 175 to 200 **and** 310-10 Doe/fawn licenses from 100 to 150.

**HD 311** - Licenses valid throughout hunting district.

**HD 338** - Offer successful antelope ES 338-00 applicants opportunity to purchase a single Doe/Fawn 338-30 license valid in 338 during the Archery Only Season and the General Antelope Season.

**HD 341** – Add 75 Doe/Fawn licenses (341-10). Single licenses will be offered to successful Either-sex Antelope license holders in this HD.

**HD 380** - Adjust boundary to accommodate new HD 388 **and** eliminate a series of licenses (380-01) which were formerly valid in the area proposed to be the new 388.

**HD 381** – Adjust boundary to accommodate new HD 388 **and** eliminate Doe/Fawn licenses **and** adjust Either Sex permit level to 25.

**HD 388** - Create new HD 388 with 50 Either Sex licenses (388-00) and 100 Doe/Fawn licenses (388-20). Hunting restricted to archery equipment, shotgun, traditional handgun, muzzleloader or crossbow only, EXCEPT on lands that are specifically excluded from the weapons restrictions. Legal description corresponds with Deer/Elk HD 388.

### Region 5

**HDs 570, 571 and 572** - Combine the three adjacent antelope hunting districts into a new HD 570. Hunters who draw an either sex antelope license in HD 570 may be given the opportunity to purchase up to two additional doe/fawn licenses depending on population levels.

### Region 6

**HDs 620 and 690** - Adjust the boundary between HD 620 and 690 to conform to Boundaries for Deer/Elk HDs 621, 680 and 690.

## Mountain Lion

### Statewide

Set harvest quota during Fall Season Without Dogs no more than 20% of total district(s) quota.

Allow any lion license holder to hunt without dogs during Fall Season in any lion HD with an open Fall Season. This eliminates validation requirement for Fall Season.

Adjust limited entry language. The title "Permit" would be eliminated. Hunters would either purchase a lion license over-the-counter in general quota areas OR apply for/obtain a lion license via the drawing in limited entry areas.

Implement bonus point system for limited entry license application.

### Region 2

Replace the quota system in Region 2 with a limited license drawing system in all districts except Missoula Special Management Area.

Eliminate Blackfoot Special Lion Permit Area (BLSPA). Lands formerly encompassed by the BLSPA would be incorporated into HD 292 and the new HD 298. Lion quota levels would be managed consistent with the current season structure; a quota of 4 male lions annually harvested in the combined HDs 298, 290, 291 and 292.